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ABSTRACT

This document consists of a chronology of historic events. There is no accompanying text. Divided into four sections, the outline succinctly sketches the development of printing and publishing in Alabama in the nineteenth century. The opening section, which lists early publications and their dates of first appearance, features newspapers, legal materials and public documents, political pamphlets and broadsides, literary works, periodicals, and miscellaneous books. Early printing conditions are summarized in the second section, which addresses Alabama settlement factors, means of transportation, four centers of early newspaper development, sources of income, and problems for newspaper editors. The third section profiles seven early Alabama printers, and the fourth provides a chronology of early printed works from the publication of a pamphlet in 1807 to the 1882 founding of the "Alabama Law Journal." (5 references) (SD)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ALABAMA PRINTING AND PUBLISHING
An Outline

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Pelham, Alabama

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I. Early Alabama Publications--categories by frequency
   A. Newspapers---earliest 1811
   B. Legal material/public documents---earliest 1818
   C. Religious tracts, sermons, etc.---(?)
   D. Political pamphlets, broadsides---earliest 1807
   E. Literary works
      1. Novels---earliest 1833
      2. Poetry---earliest collection 1833
      3. Plays---earliest published separately 1843 (?)
      4. Literary journals---earliest 1836
   F. Periodicals---earliest ca. 1823
   G. Miscellaneous books---earliest ca. 1822 (?)

II. Early Alabama Printing Conditions
   A. Alabama settlement factors
      1. Ceding of area to British by French, 1763
      2. Ceding of area by British to Americans, 1783
      3. Creation of Mississippi Territory, 1789
      4. Creation of Alabama Territory, 1817
      5. Alabama granted statehood, Dec. 1819
      6. Waves of settlers into Tennessee Valley and over Federal Road, beginning 1810-1820
   B. Means of transportation
      1. Roads
         a. Natchez Trace (Lexington, KY. to Natchez, Miss.)--northwestern corner of state
         b. Federal Road (Richmond, Va. to New Orleans)-southern part of state
         c. These roads and others were merely cleared trails with tree stumps remaining, impassable in bad weather
      2. Rivers
         a. Travel very slow
         b. Impassable in many places in dry weather
      3. Railroads--did not appear in significant sections until mid-1850s
   C. Four centers of early press(newspaper) development, 1811-1831
      1. Lower Tombigbee and Mobile Rivers--southwestern Alabama
         a. Ft. Stoddert
         b. Mobile
         c. St. Stephens
         d. Blakeley
      2. Alabama River--central-southern Alabama
         a. Cahaba
         b. Claiborne
         c. Montgomery
         d. Selma

3. Black Warrior River--central-western Alabama
   a. Tuscaloosa
   b. Greensboro
   c. Erie
4. Tennessee Valley--northern Alabama
   a. Huntsville
   b. Florence
   c. Athens
   d. Tuscumbia
   e. Moulton

D. Sources of income for early newspaper publishers
   1. State (public) printer
      a. Principal plum of newspaper publishers
      b. Fierce competition for this post, esp. during 1820s-1830s
   2. Political patronage/subsidies
      a. County political organizations
      b. State political parties
   3. Subscriptions--main source for non-subsidized newspapers
   4. Advertising

E. Problems other than financial for newspaper editors
   1. Transportation
      a. News
         1. Wagon
         2. Stagecoach
      b. Supplies
         1. Rivers
   2. Communication
      a. Erratic and slow mail service
      b. Late arrival of Eastern papers, upon which editors depended for news of the outside world
   3. Difficulty of keeping apprentices and printers
      a. William Long, Huntsville Democrat, lost his apprentice in Aug. 1824
      b. John Boardman lost his apprentice in March 1822
      c. Thomas Grantland, Tuscaloosa Alabama Sentinel, advertised for a printer in 1825 and got reams of free publicity in the bargain. A printer named Singleton bet that he could set up the entire insides of the paper, ten columns, in one day. A huge crowd gathered to watch him succeed. Most editors in need of a printer were not so lucky.
   4. Political
      a. Dennis Dykous, editor/printer in Marion and Tuscaloosa, 1840s-1860s, was run out of Tuscaloosa in 1869 for attempting to publish a Republican newspaper
      b. Andrew Wills, editor of Huntsville Democrat beginning in 1825, was murdered in 1827 in a political dispute

5. Personal
   a. Mosely Baker, editor of Montgomery Alabama Journal 1829-1830, arrested for fraud and forgery against the Bank of Alabama. He escaped during his trial.
   b. Colonel Edward Stiff, editor of the Cedar Bluff Messenger (1840s) and Stiff's Radical Reformer (Gadsden, early 1850s) was imprisoned for a crime of which he claimed to be innocent. He finally committed suicide in 1854 by taking a vial of chloroform, on of laudanum and ten grains of morphine. His son published his jail diary in which Stiff recorded his nightly attempts, ultimately successful, at suicide. Prior to 1840 Stiff had made several trips to Texas, and wrote a book detailing his adventures there and including a history of Texas in the book.

III. Early Alabama Printers
   A. P. Joseph Forster--St. Stephens--ca. 1811
      1. German newspaper publisher in Philadelphia and New York, 1805-1808
      2. First identified printer in what is now Alabama
      3. Claim to fame rests on a copy of a bail bond
   B. Samuel Miller/John B. Hood--Ft. Stoddert--ca. 1811
      1. Mobile Sentinel
      2. Both men from Tennessee
   C. James Lyon--Mobile--ca. 1813-1814
      1. Mobile Gazette
      2. Lyon operated from Vermont to New Orleans between 1797 and 1814
   D. Thomas Eastin--St. Stephens--1814-ca. 1823
      1. War of 1812 veteran from Tennessee
      2. Printer to the Alabama Territory
      3. St. Stephens Halcyon, 1814-1822
      4. Career took him to Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida in addition to Tennessee and Alabama
   E. John Boardman--Huntsville--ca. 1818-1825
      1. From Hartford, Connecticut
      2. Early legal/state documents
      3. Huntsville Alabama Republican
      4. Later mayor of Huntsville; held other public offices in that area
   F. William B. Allen--Cahaba--1819-ca. 1821
      1. State documents
      2. Cahawba Press and Alabama Intelligencer
      3. Partnership with Richard B. Brickell, who later published the Franklin Enquirer at Tuscumbia, 1824
   G. Marmaduke J. Slade--Tuscaloosa--1840s

IV. Chronology of Early Alabama Printed Works

1807 Sept.	Publication of a pamphlet at Wakefield entitled The Declaration of the American Citizens on the Mobile, with Relation to British Aggressions. 4pp. First known printing in what is now Alabama. Only copy is at Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
1811 Feb.	Bail bond printed at St. Stephens by P. J. Forster
1811 May	Alabama's first newspaper, Mobile Sentinel, began publication at Ft. Stoddert, north of Mobile
1812	Madison Gazette, Huntsville newspaper, begins
	Mobile Gazette, newspaper, begins
1815	St. Stephens Halcyon, newspaper, begins
	Lewis Sewall's The Last Campaign of Sir John Falstaff the II; or, The Hero of the Burnt-Corn Battle: a Heroic Comic Poem published at St. Stephens. Savage satire on exploits of Colonel John Caller, who led almost 200 white settlers in a disasterous attack on Creek Indians at Burnt Corn Creek in 1811.
1819 March	Alabama Courier, Claiborne newspaper, begins
	Blakeley Sun and Alabama Advertiser, newspaper, begins
1819	Tuscaloosa Republican, newspaper, Thomas M. Davenport, ed., begins
	Cahaba Press and Alabama Intelligencer, newspaper, begins
1821	Montgomery Republican, newspaper, begins
1822	John P. Crowell's Digest of the Laws of Alabama. No copy known to have survived
	Henry Hitchcock's The Alabama Justice of the Peace published at Cahaba. Ad for its publication by Subscription appeared in Huntsville Alabama Republican, Sept. 1820. In Feb. 1822 the same paper announced receipt of an unbound copy. A month later the paper announced the book was bound and selling for $5.
1823	Western Arminian, Huntsville. Earliest periodical of which copies survive.

1825 Dr. Jabez W. Heustis' Medical Facts and Inquiries, respecting the Causes, Nature, Prevention and Cure of Fever published at Cahaba by William B. Allen

1829 Sketch of the Life and Dying Words of William Hillhouse Barron published at Greensboro by the office of the Alabama Spectator. Barron was an apprentice printer.

1831 Ordinances and Resolutions of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, which are not of a General and Public Nature published at Tuscaloosa by J.R. Hampton.

1833 Lewis Sewall's Miscellaneous Poems, containing his Burnt Corn satire, published at Mobile. One of first two poetry collections published in the state.

William Russell Smith's College Musings; or Twigs from Parnassus, poetry, published at Tuscaloosa. Influenced greatly by work of Lord Byron; Smith was good friend of A.B. Meek, Alabama's first great literary figure.

Don Pedro Cassender's The Lost Virgin of the South, Alabama's first novel, published at Courtland by M. Smith, probably the author. Dedicated to Andrew Jackson.

1835 Alabama Baptist begins publication. With two name changes would last until 1865. Because of its strong sectional bias, periodical was shut down by federal authorities and editor jailed.

A Statement of the Trial of Charles R.S. Boyington who was indicted and executed for the murder of Nathaniel Frost, written by himself to which is added a number of fugitive pieces, in verse, also written and composed by him published at Mobile.

William T. Hamilton's The Last Hours of Charles R.S. Boyington Who Was Executed at Mobile, Alabama, for the Murder of Nathaniel Frost Perpretrated May 10, 1834 published at Mobile. Boyington, a travelling poet from New England, was hung in Feb. 1835.

1836 Bachelor's Button, Alabama's first literary magazine, published at Mobile. Edited by William Russell Smith, who wrote most of its contents and disguised the fact by not naming the authors.

1837 Aug. Report of the Committee of Investigation, who were instructed to enguire into the causes which have produced the late disturbances in and the decline of the University of Alabama published by the Selma Free Press.

1838 Loafer's Journal, humorous periodical edited by Bob Short, published at Wetumpka

Rules of Etiquette, Rate of Charges and Fee-Bill of Mobile Medical Profession published at Mobile by J.F. Leavens

1839 A.B. Meek's literary periodical, Southron, published at Tuscaloosa and Mobile, Jan.-June.

1839 Feb. Southron published third act of William Russell Smith's Aaron Burr: A Tragedy, " probably the initial attempt at dramatic composition within the state," according to Ruth Ellison. Native drama was slow in coming to Alabama; the first professional theatrical performance was given by Noah Ludlow's group (from Nashville) in Huntsville in December 1818. Ludlow established a reperatory group in Mobile in 1824.

1840 Loco-Foco, an Anti-Whig periodical edited at Montgomery by Perez Colman

Gallinipper, humorous periodical edited by S. Scripsit (a pseudonym?)

1843 Caroline Lee Hentz's DeLara, or the Moorish Bride, published at Tuscaloosa by the firm of Woodruff. Probably the first play separately printed in Alabama.

1844 Samuel A. Townes' History of Marion, Sketches of Life, etc., in Perry County, Alabama. Published by Dennis Dyhous at Marion. May be the first example of local history published in the state.

1846 Edward Stiff's Murder in Cedar Bluff published at the office of the Cedar Bluff Messenger, of which Stiff was editor.

1848 Annual publication of transactions of the Alabama Medical Association began. First medical journal, Alabama Medical and Surgical Journal, did not begin publication until July 1886.

1849 B.A. Reynold's (presumed author) verse drama, Alfred and Inez, or the Siege of St. Augustine published at Mobile by Thompson and Harris.

Report on the Construction of a Plank Road from the City of Tuscaloosa to Roup's Valley published by Marmaduke J. Slade at Tuscaloosa. The plank road effort in Alabama was a failure and led to the development of railroads.

1850 Lemuel Gill printed at Eutaw, and probably wrote, The River of Thirst: Prohibition or Temperance--An Autobiography or Vision of an Inebriate,an anti-liquor diatribe

1882 Alabama Law Journal, Montgomery, first legal journal

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